

# Department of Marine Resources

## NOTICE OF AGENCY RULE-MAKING PROPOSAL

**RULE TITLE:** Chapter 8.20(N) Landings Program, Harvester Reporting, Lobster Harvest

**CONCISE SUMMARY:**

The Department of Marine Resources proposes to add the “number of strings hauled” to the reporting in accordance with Chapter 8.20(N)(A) required of lobster harvesters. The purpose would be to improve data collected on gear configurations for use in vertical line density estimates, for the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan, and compliance with the Atlantic Coastal Cooperative Statistics Program (ACCSP).

An electronic copy of the entire Chapter 8 Landings Program rules is available online at: <http://www.maine.gov/sos/cec/rules/13/188/188c008.doc> and a copy of the ACCSP protocol is available online at <http://www.accsp.org/cfstandards.htm>.

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:** 12 M.R.S.A. §6171, §6173

**PUBLIC HEARING:** October 26, 2009, \*\*6:00pm, Natural Resource Service Center, 6 Beech Street, Hallowell (access via the rear entrance) \*\**Public hearings for multiple proposed rules will be held in chronological order. The second hearing will be held immediately upon the conclusion of the previous hearing, etc. See separate rulemaking notices for the rules not listed in this notice.*

**DEADLINE FOR COMMENTS:** November 6, 2009

*To ensure consideration, comments must include your name and the organization you represent, if any. Please be aware that any risk of non-delivery associated with submissions by fax or e-mail is on the sender.*

**AGENCY CONTACT PERSONS:** Sarah Cotnoir (tel: 207-624-6596)  
**Mail Written Comments to:** Department of Marine Resources, attn L. Churchill  
**ADDRESS:** PO Box 8, West Boothbay Harbor, Maine 04575-0008  
**WEB SITE:** <http://www.maine.gov/dmr/rulemaking/>  
**E-MAIL:** [laurice.churchill@maine.gov](mailto:laurice.churchill@maine.gov) **TEL:** (207) 633-9584 **FAX:** (207) 633-9579 **TTY:** (207) 633-9500 (Deaf/Hard of Hearing) Hearing facilities: If you require accommodations due to disability, please contact Amanda Beckwith, at (207) 287-7578.

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**Additional information:**

*The proposed regulations would apply to all persons selected to report that hold a Class I, II, or III, student or noncommercial lobster and crab fishing license issued under 12 M.R.S.A. §6421 (A, B, C, E, F and G). Ten percent of these license holders, except lobster apprentices, during a given calendar year are randomly selected to report the harvesting information required for the following calendar year. The exception to this includes all Monhegan Island Lobster Conservation Area lobster and crab license holders, except the apprentices, are required to report each year.*

**Proposed rulemaking – see underlined or ~~deleted~~ text below:**

Chapter 8 Landings Program  
8.20 Harvester Reporting  
N. Lobster Harvest  
16. Number of strings hauled.

***If you are unable to attend the hearing persons are encouraged to submit written comments from the receipt or posting of this notice through close of business on the deadline listed.***